Approved For Release 2002/05/07; CIA-RDP79R00890A000500010014-6

NSC BRIEFING CONFIDENTIAL

ZAHEDI'S REPLACEMENT INDICATED

growing

(late Feb)

25X1A

A. Political deterioration may force
Shah shorten European visit.

certainty replacement Prime

Zahedi soon after Shah's return

B. Zahedi's failing health gives substance to Shah's view that prime minister now incapable effective work.

Has not attended cabinet meetings

(strife-ridden) since mid-Dec.

C. Several candidates for job.

 Senator Eqbal, university chancellor, believed Shah's present choice.

2. Also in field-retired generals

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25X1

Approved For Release 2002/05/07 : CIA-RDP79R00899A009500010014-6 25X1C Zahedi recently said, "I came 25X1C in on a tank and if necessary I will go out on a tank." Nevertheless, prime minister has no control over sources of power and even one of staunchest supporters has advised him to quit before he thrown out. CONFIDENTIA